

Electronic ministries explored at conf.

By William H. Perkins Jr.

ST STE 401

SINCE 1877

Y 12, 2005

MISSISSIPPI

Vol. 129

Nq. 19

Christian television, radio, and Internet ministry specialists from across Mississippi met together on May 6-7 at Park Place Church, Brandon, to swap ideas on reaching the lost through electronic media and to recognize outstanding work during the 2005 Witnessing Through Media Conference.

Training sessions included Nuts and Bolts of Camera Operation; Getting Started on the Web; How Did They Do That?; Creative Production; Sound Advice Basic/Advanced; Advanced Web Design; Non-Linear Editing; and Projection Systems Forum.

Session leaders included Don Warren, David Bungar, J.C. Howell, Trooper Hales, Lynn Bullock, and Ian Richardson.

Richardson is director of communication services for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which sponsors the annual conference. He said more than 130 people registered for the 2005 conference.

"The primary objectives of the conference each year are to provide training, inspiration, support, fellowship, and recognition for the workers and volunteers who spread the Gospel through the electronic means available to them," Richardson said. "This includes radio and television broadcasting, cable television productions, Internet web sites, and the people who manage the important engineering aspects of those programs such as lighting and audio."

such as lighting and audio."
Witnessing Through Media award winners for 2005 included:

Division I

Best TV Program, Church Musicals
The Gift - Broadmoor Church, Madison

Best TV Program, Missions/Evangelism Church Service - Highland Church, Laurel

Best TV Program, Community Service Sports Football - First Church, Laurel



MEDIA WINNERS — Recipients of the 2005 Witnessing Through Media awards gather for a photograph after the May 6 evening awards banquet at Park Place Church, Brandon. The annual awards are part of the two-day Witnessing Through Media Conference sponsored each year by the Communication Services Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Best Spot
The Core
Main Street Church, Hattiesburg

Best Use of Web Site www.Nerds For Christ.com Nerds for Christ - First Church, Brandon

Division II

Best Radio Program, Missions/Evangelism The Underground - WHJT-FM Star 93.5, Clinton

Best Radio Program, Community Service Love Fights - United Methodist Hour

Best TV Program, Missions/Evangelism Big Stuff - First Church, Greenville Best TV Program, Church Musicals Sing Christmas Joy Colonial Heights Church, Jackson

Best TV Program, Community Service (tie) Local Talk Show - First Church, Laurel Hoping and Home - United Methodist Hour

Best TV Spot
"One Nite" promo
Baptist Student Union
Mississippi State University

Best Use of Web Site
Solid Ground Student Ministry
Colonial Heights Church, Jackson

(see Witnessing on page nine)

Miss. CP rises in April

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) in September showed an increase when compared both to giving last month and for the same period in 2004, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. The April total of \$2,766,379 is .6% higher than the \$2,749,104 given last month, and 4.4% higher than the \$2,649,283 given in the same period in 2004. Total Mississippi CP giving for the current fiscal year, which runs from January-December, stands at \$11,392,998, which is 5.1% above last year's giving during the same period and 9.15% ahead of current year budget needs. The 2005 Mississippi CP budget of \$31,314,491, was approved by messengers to the 2004 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,609,541 is needed each month to meet the convention board's budget for 2005. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP also helps fund such programs as the Hispanic Evangelism and Discipleship Conference on April 20-21 at Central Hills Retreat, Kosciusko; Mission Mississippi Prayer Breakfast on April 24 in the chapel of the Baptist Building in Jackson; and the multiple Youth Conference weeks during the summer months at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

SBC CP up for month

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) for April were \$17,069,790.58 — 9.4% more than the \$15;598,078 given the previous month and 2.7%, or \$473,547.87, below the \$17,543,338.45 received in April 2004, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman in Nashville. Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are up 2.4% compared to the same time frame in 2004, As of April 30, the year-to-date total of \$115,675,906.89 for CP Missions is \$2,677,683.83 ahead of the \$112,998,223.06 received at the same point in 2004. Designated giving of \$131,312,306.44 for the same year-to-date period is .2%, or \$230,318.30, below gifts of \$131,542,624.74 received at this point last year. The \$14,755,145.54 in designated gifts received last month is \$1,327,975.91 above the \$13,427,169.63 received in April 2004, an increase 9.9 percent. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$115,675,906.89 is 108.2 percent of the \$106,867,654.88 budgeted, or \$8,808,252.01 above budget to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. At the close of their last fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2003 to Sept. 30, 2004, Southern Baptists recorded a 3.6% increase in CP giving, for a record total of \$189,865,254.85. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Losing the battle for baptisms

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK





William H. Perkins Jr. Editor

EDITOR *
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Tony Martin tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN Matt Broome mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING Dana Richardson drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER Brenda Quattlebaum bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

> EDITOR EMERITUS Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster: Send changes of address to: The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800 Fax: (601) 292-3330 E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 19 (ISSN-0005-5773)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

A new study soon to be released by a Southern Baptist church growth specialist confirms publicly what has been said in whispers for quite some time: Southern Baptists aren't doing a very good job when it comes to evangelism, continuing a trend that began about the time of the conservative resurgence in 1979 when conservatives first wrested control of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) from moderates.

"An honest evaluation of the data leads us to but one conclusion. The conservative resurgence has not resulted in a more evangelistic denomination. Indeed, the Southern

Baptist Convention is less evangelistic today than it was in the years preceding the conservative resurgence," writes Thom S. Rainer in A Resurgence Not Yet Realized: Evangelistic Effectiveness in the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979, which will be published in the Spring 2005 issue of Southern Seminary's magazine.

Rainer is professor of evangelism and church growth, as well as dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth, on Southern Seminary's Louisville, Ky., main campus.

He is also the author of 16 books and a member of both the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education and the American Society for Church Growth. He holds master and doctoral degrees from Southern Seminary.

Rainer is quick to point out in his study that he believes the SBC would be in much worse shape had the conservative resurgence not taken place. "[W]ithout the resurgence, the evangelistic effectiveness of the denomination would be much worse. To use a medical metaphor, the resurgence slowed the bleeding of lost effectiveness, but the patient is still not well."

The study will be well received by those who have been critical of the conservative resurgence all along, and it will likewise be questioned by the true believers in the resurgence. Alas, Rainer himself puts forth

he national Day of Prayer for Vacation Bible School

(VBS) will be observed this

Sunday, May 15. Every

Mississippi Baptist church mem-

ber should join with thousands

across our nation in prayer for

the most strategic week of the

year in ministry to and with the

just for children. It is for all

ages. There is no other week of

the year in the life of our

churches when we can have

such impact for good as through Vacation Bible School.

Twenty eight percent of all baptisms for Southern Baptist churches come through VBS.

More children are enrolled as a

result of being involved in VBS

than any other time or activity.

More children and students feel

led into fulltime Christian

vocational service as a result of

VBS, than any other time or

activity. We have more oppor-

tunity to take the Gospel to

unchurched children in mission

Vacation Bible Schools. Wow!

It's an amazing fact that some 600 of our Mississippi

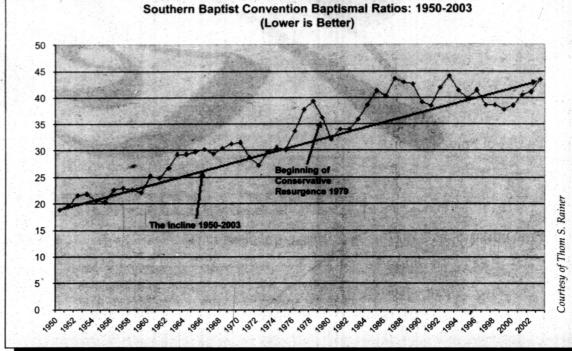
Baptist churches did not have

Vacation Bible School in 2004,

or at least they did not report

Vacation Bible School is not

children of our land.



the idea in his study that the SBC would be in much poorer shape if the convention had gone the way of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the breakaway group of Southern Baptists opposed to the conservative resurgence that recently declared itself a separate entity.

That's akin to saying, "I know I'm bad, but my brother is worse," so let's put aside the finger pointing and get down to one of the basic facts of this important study.

In 1950, it took 19 members of an SBC church to accomplish one baptism. By 1977—close to the midpoint between 1950 and now—the ratio was over 30 members for each baptism. In 2003, the most recent year for which statistics were available for inclusion in Rainer's study, the ratio had risen to almost 45 church members for each baptism.

In Mississippi, the current ratio is nearly 50 church members for each baptism. That's according to statistics published on page 224 of the 2004 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual.

"The trend is negative and disturbing. Though numbers are not ultimate measures of spiritual realities, the data we do have indicate a denomination in evange-

listic crisis," Rainer pointed out.

Evangelistic crisis. Those are strong, uncomfortable words. Strong because it's hard to argue with the facts. Uncomfortable because modern Southern Baptists and Mississippi Baptists have become too satisfied with the victories of the past (many of which don't even belong to us) and too complacent about our current situation.

With Mississippi's and the nation's populations growing by leaps each year, our baptism statistics would be keeping pace if we were doing the job each of us was called to do when we became Christians; namely, to help win Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

If we do not accomplish this most important of personal responsibilities, untold millions will be condemned to eternal Hell — and there won't be any excuses on Judgment Day for our failure, just the truth. If those two thoughts don't motivate you to witness every day to everyone you meet, what will?

GUEST OPINION:



Pray, work for VBS

By Kiely Young, director MBCB Sunday School Dept.

having a VBS. If you're in one of those churches, please reconsider this year and pray more intensely for the children in your area. Pray over a schedule change that would allow you to touch the lives of children. Go off campus of your church if necessary, but please pray again and conduct Vacation Bible School in your church.

You will be blessed. Your church will be blessed and those children touched by the magnificent Word of God will be blessed.

Some of you may be thinking, "We just do not have enough workers to plan, prepare, and conduct VBS in our area." Pray again. Ask a sister church to assist. Contact the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

(MBCB) at the address given at the end of this commentary.

There is help available. There is more help available this year in particular. Let us share some ideas with you. Remember, you have not because you ask not. Ask our Father, and He will show you the way.

Vacation Bible School is worth the time, effort, energy, and activity of your diligence in prayer. Pray for every Mississippi Baptist pastor to be involved in VBS. Pray for your VBS director as they enlist, equip, and encourage your VBS workers. Pray for every VBS worker who will spend countless hours in preparation for ministry to and with these precious children. Pray for your

VBS follow-up director who will be responsible for being sure every child not enrolled in Sunday School is contacted beginning mid-week of VBS. Then on Wednesday of the week of VBS at your church, say a special prayer that morning for all the older children attending your VBS who do not yet know Jesus Christ as Savior. Pray they will have ears to hear and hearts open to receive God's forgiveness of sin by accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Pray for your Vacation Bible School. Ask every class in Sunday School to have a special time of prayer for VBS. Ask every pastor to have a special time of prayer during the morning and every worship time. VBS is worth all the effort. The results and blessings will all prove worthwhile.

For more information on Mississippi Baptist VBS, contact Linda Reeves, MBCB Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3294 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651 ext. 294. Email: Ireeves@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbcb.org.

Day of Prayer observed across the country

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The National Day of Prayer (NDP) is an occasion for Americans to "ask that our nation, our leaders and our people use the freedom we have been given wisely," U.S. President Bush said May 5 at The White House.

Speaking on the 54th National Day of Prayer, the president told a gathering, "Freedom is a divine gift that carries with it a tremendous human responsibility.... [W]e pray as Americans have always prayed — with confidence in God's purpose, with hope for the future and with the humility to ask God's help to do

what is right."

The morning event in the East Room marked the fifth consecutive year the president has spoken at such an observance in the White House. In addition to events in Washington, observances were expected to be held at about 40,000 sites across the country, according to the NDP Task Force. These ranged from prayer breakfasts to gatherings at church buildings, county and city government buildings, flagpoles and athletic stadiums, the task force said.

Mississippians gathered on the south lawn of the New Capitol in downtown Jackson for prayer, praise, and worship. Approximately 300 people were in attendance. First Church, Jackson, located across President Street from the Capitol, opened the church's chapel for the day and invited participants to pray there.

Observances were planned for several other sites around the state. Mississippi Baptists



PRESENTING THE COLORS — The color guard of the Jackson Fire Department mounts the south Capitol steps to post the flags during the National Day of Prayer observance in Jackson May 5. The day has been observed for 54 years. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

were involved in the planning of most of the observances.

In his six-minute speech from the White House, Bush said Americans pray for three reasons: (1) "to give thanks for our freedom;" (2) "for help in defending the gift of freedom from those who seek to destroy it;" and (3) "to acknowledge our dependence on the Almighty."

dependence on the Almighty."
"No government can ever take a gift from God away," the president said. "And when we offer thanks to our Creator for the

gift of freedom, we acknowledge that it was meant for all men and women, and for all times."

Americans pray now "for the troops who are defending our freedom against determined enemies around the globe" and for their families, he said."

"Prayerful people understand the limits of human strength," he said. "We recognize that our plans are not always God's plans. Yet, we know that a God who created us for freedom is not indifferent to injustice or cruelty or evil. So we ask that our hearts may be aligned with His and that we may be given the strength to do what is right and help those in need."

Bush issued a National Day of Prayer proclamation May 3. A transcript of the president's remarks and a text of the proclamation are both available

Speaking at the White House event were NDP Task Force chair Shirley Dobson, as well as Roman Catholic priest Charles Pope, pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Washington. Rabbi Kenneth Auman, presi-

dent of the Rabbinical Council of America, read Psalm 98. NDP Honorary chairman Max Lucado, well-known author and pastor in San Antonio, Texas, read the NDP's 2005 "Prayer for the Nation," which he wrote. Peter Weaver, president of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, prayed. The St. Olaf

Northfield, Minn., sang.

Among Southern Baptists attending the White House event were Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville, and Barrett Duke, the ERLC's vice president for public policy and research.

Choir, consisting of students from St. Olaf College in

In the afternoon, people gathered as part of NDP in a large caucus room of a House of Representatives office building to pray for the government and military, as well as the educational system, the media, churches and families.



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

Cecord

Published Since 1877

May 12, 2005 Vol. 129 No. 19

Vines to retire

he will retire next February as senior pastor of the historic First Church of Jacksonville, Fla., stressing that he is retiring from the pastorate, not the Gospel ministry. "After much prayer, and confident of the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the time has come to announce my retirement as your pastor," Vines said at the end of the evening worship service. "In no way am I retiring from the Gospel ministry. I plan to devote whatever remaining time the Lord Jesus gives me to a ministry of Bible preaching, teaching and writing, and a ministry to preachers, as the Lord opens doors of opportunity." Vines expressed confidence in the health and future of First Baptist, Jacksonville. "The time has come for a new and younger leadership to lead the church in the challenge of sharing the story of Jesus with a rapidly growing and expanding city," he said. In accordance with church bylaws, a three-person team — chairman and vice chairman of the deacons and the finance committee chairman — will name a pulpit committee, whose membership will be announced to First Baptist, Jacksonville May 4. "Janet and I express to you our undying love, greatest appreciation, and deepest thankfulness for all you mean to us," Vines said, reading from a statement. Following his prepared remarks, Vines told the congregation, "If a pastor was called on to just draw a picture of his dream church, when he got through it would be a picture of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida. I'm thrilled to death that God has let me be the pastor of such a dream church for another nine months." Appearing to stumble a bit on the words, Vines conceded, "This has been kind of a hard day." Vines concluded, "The church is going to flourish like it never has. We're going to win people to Jesus like we never have. We're going to reach out to the city. It's going to be a grand and a glorious period of time, so that when God brings our pastor he's going to find an on-fire-for-Jesus church at First Baptist Jacksonville." The congregation — many of whom cried

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi Baptists continue to provide disaster response resources, with child care work in New Orleans following May flooding that saw water rise 22 inches within 48 hours of heavy downpours.

20 years ago

Grady Crowell, Clarke Association director of missions, leads 11 Clarke County Baptists in conducting simultaneous revivals across Ohio. He reports 48 people prayed to receive Christ during the revivals.

50 years ago

First Church of Indianola led the state with 117 baptisms in the previous year. The other top four churches were Center Terrace, Canton; First, Pascagoula; First, Greenwood; and Calvary, Starkville.



YOU CAN RESPOND **RIGHT Now!**

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

- Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
- 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
- 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name.' (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004 copyrighted 2005

GVH YAT BHMIT VG BVR YAMY **DHLFBTYA EMWQMYLVF** AMYA **MXXTMHTR** YV MWW KTF.

YLYOE YNV:TWTOTF

Clue: Q = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Four:Forty-One.

PUNCHING THE TEMPTATION BUTTON

Temptation is all around us. It always has been and always will be. Do people face more temptation today than in days gone by? I believe the answer is yes, but temptation whether in the Garden of Eden, in the wilderness trials of Jesus, or in your life and mine today can only be dealt with in the strength and overcoming power of God.

It is important for us to keep in mind that temptation itself is not evil. Temptation is the call to, the beckoning, the lure, and the invitation to do evil. Jesus was tempted, but He never sinned. Giving in to temptation is the line crossed and the wrong done. James gives us some insight into the development of this moment when he said, "And lust when it has conceived bringeth forth sin, and sin when it is finished bringeth forth death." Here the word lust simply means desire. Something comes into your view, your frame of reference, or your thought process that is appealing. Immediately your mind kicks into gear to put in place the plan for acquiring what you should not have. Sin has been birthed. No one may see it. You may not even follow through with it because of the lack of opportunity or fear of the consequences, but still you may have lived it out in your mind.

To look at this issue more closely, let me share with you an event that recently happened to a friend of mine. The man was on a trip and staying



in a hotel. He got on the elevator and as the elevator moved to where he was going it stopped at a floor before he was to exit. The doors opened and there before him stood an attractive young woman in a bath robe. He was shocked and surprised at the same time at what he saw in front of him. The young woman, realizing that the elevator was going in the wrong direction from where she wanted to go, did not get on the elevator and the doors closed. My friend on the elevator, who now had a second or two to contemplate what he had just seen, reacted by reaching up and punching the open door button on the elevator. Sure enough the doors opened again and there stood the beautiful young woman. Not wanting to get on the ele-vator that was going in the wrong direction, again she simply stood there. In a few seconds the doors closed a second time. One more time the guy reached up and pushed the open door button and one more time the doors opened, the woman refrained from entering, the doors closed, and finally, my buddy went on his way.

At what point does the intrigue and allurement to passion become wrong? Well, in a

practical sort of way, when you become engaged with what is not rightfully yours in a way that your mind sets in motion the actions that carry out at least one more step that crosses the line. Temptation becomes the thought and then an action. So how do you deal with temptation in a world like ours? Temptation is before us everywhere we turn in sight or sound and by every other sensual stimulation that can be devised.

One of the difficulties of dealing with temptation is that it virtually always presents itself initially wrapped in innocence and void of anything that appears to be hurtful or even remotely evil. Do you remember when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness? It came at the end of a 40-day fast. The devil simply said, "Make some bread out of this stone." Jesus was hungry and there is absolutely nothing wrong with being hungry. There is nothing wrong with eating to satisfy the stomach's cravings. Certainly, Jesus had the power to change a stone into a piece of bread. What appears to be so innocent can violate other principles of God's will and plan and ignore greater principles that we need to be following. So we are amazed to hear the Lord's response, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Matt. 4:4)." What are we supposed to do when faced with temptation?

First, it is imperative that anyone who wants to be strong when tempted should saturate mind, heart, and life with the Word of God. It does not matter who you are or where you work; you must be clothed with an understanding of God's Word. It does not matter whether you are a farmer, electrician, accountant, housewife, truck driver, pastor, attorney, or a professional athlete; you need God's Word deeply and richly planted in your heart.

Secondly, as you walk with God you need to predetermine how you are going to react to any of temptation's actions. You do not have to go looking for temptation; it will come to you. In our day and time from commercials to pop-ups on the screen of your computer, there is something that will come stalking you. You must be ready to say that is not a part of my life, close the door, and move on quickly. Unless you decide before the moment comes you will probably make the wrong decision. One more glance and a wrong relationship can begin — just ask King David. One click of the mouse and the road to porn addiction can begin. Just ask the hundreds of thousands who are trapped in that environment today.

Thirdly, you must know and rely on the power of God to guide you and protect you as you walk through the maze of temptations in this world. The Lord will be there, you will need Him, and He will not let you down. So throughout this day and the days ahead, let the doors close and do not push the temptation button.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

Nominees sought for 2006 MBC posts

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) Committee on Nominations will soon begin meeting and reviewing the trustee/board member positions on MBC boards and commissions for 2006. According to Lamar McDonald, committee chairman and member of Poplar Springs Drive Church, Springs Drive Church, Meridian, there are a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Ministerial Education
- Christian Action Commission
- **Education Commission** Historical Commission
- Baptist Children's Village
- Mississippi Baptist Foundation · Baptist Health Systems, Inc.
- (Jackson) Baptist Memorial Health Care
- System, Inc. (Memphis)

 Blue Mountain College Mississippi College
- · William Carey College • Miss. Baptist Convention Bd.

The Committee on nominations will work in con-junction with the heads of the institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers at the 170th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on Nov. 1-2 at First Church, Jackson.

Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Executive Administration, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbox@mbcb.org. The form is also available at the convenboard tion web site, www.mbcb.org. Completed forms should

be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, Executive Administration, at the above address to be received by June 1.

TRAVEL WITH OTHER BAPTISTS DEPARTING SEPT. 10, 2005

"Autumn Leaves" Tour Visits Historical East

Depart September 10th with other Baptists and combine a New England & East Coast historical tour with fall foliage. Start in Philadelphia; travel on your comfortable motorcoach, through the mountains, offering spectacular and colorful vistas. There's included sightseeing in Philadelphia (Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell); New York City; Milford, and New Haven. You'll visit gorgeous mansions of Newport, RI; tour Boston including the Old North Church, The Boston Common, Bunker Hill and USS Constitution. There's even one free day in Boston with an optional tour to historic Concord, Lexington, Gloucester, and "bewitching" Salem. Next, travel through the White and Green Mountains to French Canada: Quebec and Montreal, both with city tours, and travel along the St. Lawrence Seaway in "upper NY" to Niagara Falls. YMT will also take you to Gettysburg, Amish Country, Valley Forge, Hershey World and other attractions before flying home. Prices, per person, double occpy. start at only \$1148 including all taxes. Add \$300 airfare from Birmingham. Add \$400 airfare from Jackson, Memphis or Gulfport/Biloxi. Space is limited to 46 on our motor coach. Family and friends are welcome. \$100 deposits are now due. For information, reservations and detailed itinerary call 7 Days a Week:

YOUR MAN' TOURS

1-800-968-7626

Providing Carefree Vacations Since 19671

First Hispanic Women's Retreat held at Central Hills

By Erica Harms, staff writer Mississippi WMU

When Paula Smith and the Hispanic Women's Ministry Team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) had a vision for bringing together the state's Hispanic women, they had no clue their small idea would turn into a statewide annual event.

About 150 people attended the first Mississippi Baptist Hispanic Women's Retreat on March 18-19 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, including congregations of ten Hispanic churches, an English as Second Langauge group, and college students interested in learning more about a culture different from their own.

"The purpose of the weekend was to bring Hispanic women together to encourage each other, to get good Bible study, and to bring in those who don't know the Lord yet," said Smith, language and literacy missionary with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). "They are thirsty for a service entirely in their own language," she said.

The theme for the weekend was Estando en Tu Presencia, (In His Presence), based on

Psalm 16:11.

"It was a wonderful experience, a reminder that God is with us all the time. When we get together, God works in the greatest way," said Damaris Medina of Carthage, leader for the weekend and specialized worker in language ministry with Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Her husband Joel Medina is pastor of Iglesia Internacional Las Americas in Carthage, and second vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The event allowed different Hispanic pastors' wives and church leaders to lead in devotionals, prayer times, group discussion and worship. Some of the women attending shared personal testimonies of the Lord's love and protection.

"The Hispanic Ministry Team, under the leadership of Damaris Medina and her husband Joel, took it. They planned it. They ran with it. It was wonderful to see the Lord's guidance in every step. It was all worth it," Smith said.

Luzdary Torres, pastor's wife from Alabama and Bible

Luzdary Torres, pastor's wife from Alabama and Bible study leader for the weekend, has been living in the United States for only three months since leaving Venezuela. Her challenge to the attendees involved learning how to delight themselves in the Lord and how to have a pure heart.

Although these Hispanic believers wanted to get together, they knew it would be impossible without having child care provided. The Child Care Unit of the Mississippi Disaster Relief Task Force volunteered to take care of child care, and it served as a cross-cultural training session for them.

Deb Addington, minister of

Deb Addington, minister of youth and senior adults at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, led the older children in Bible study with the help of Samuel Torres, son of speaker Luzdary. "These volunteers got no

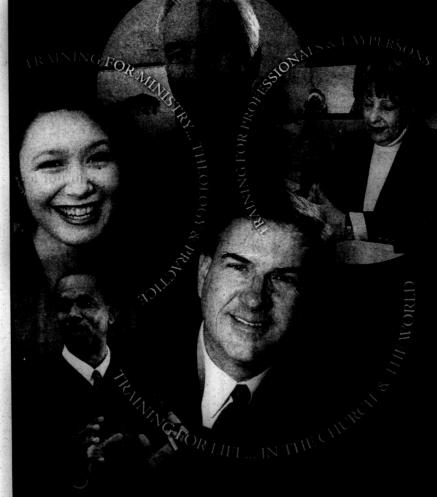
credit from anywhere, but it could not have happened without them," Smith said.



MOMENT IN PRAYER — Participants in the first-ever Mississippi Baptist Hispanic Women's Retreat on March 18-19 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko pause to talk with the Lord during a quiet time. About 150 people attended the retreat. (BR special photo)

The next retreat will be the Statewide Women's Retreat on Oct.28-29 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian, with Hispanic breakout sessions led by Mirta Vazquez of Florida, originally from Argentina. Vazquez is the author of a new book from National WMU entitled ¿El Amor Todo lo Soporta? (Does Love Bear All Things?)

The Hispanic Women's Retreat is supported by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering and the Mississippi Cooperative Program. For more information, contact Smith at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3336 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651 ext. 336. E-mail: psmith@mbcb.org.



THE UNION M.C.S



Integrated Preparation for a Complex World

Celebration fills Brookhaven stadium



The Lincoln County Celebration on April 24-27 with evangelist Jerry Pipes of Lawrenceville, Ga., drew more than 4,200 people to the Brookhaven High School football stadium. Also appearing at the celebration were country music star Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, along with humorist Dana Tison and former National Football League players Keith Davis and Shawn Harper. Of 703 total decisions recorded during the celebration, 582 were salvation decisions and an additional 485 "encouragers" were trained. Tillman Bishop, steering committee chairman and member of Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, and Talmadge Smith, missions director for Lincoln Association, served as coordinators. (BR special photo)

OBITUARIES

Wilburn Marion "Bud" Daves, pastor of Mt. Pleasant Church, West, died of heart failure on March 29 at the age of 82. He was a graduate of Clarke College in Newton (now closed), Mississippi College in Clinton, and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Daves was ordained in 1951 at Calvary Church, Greenwood, and pastored numerous churches in Mississippi and Kentucky. He served as Bible instructor at Itawamba Community College in Fulton, and retired in 1988 from East End Church, Columbus.

Clark is survived by his wife Mavis, stepmother Ellen Daves of Greenwood, two daughters, three grand-children, and one great-grandchild.



Qujett Russum, financial administrator for First Church, Picayune, for 34 years, died Apr. 25 after a

Russum brief illness.
Russum is survived by her husband Glenn of Picayune, mother Lala Parrish of Walnut Ridge, Ark., three daughters, and seven grandchildren.





JUST FOR THE RECORD

- 1. Calvary Church, Waynesboro, congratulates their Bible Drillers: Katlyn McIlwain, Jessica Cochran, Brittney Cochran, Amber Pitts, and Holly Cooley. Leaders are Bettina Bonner and Dianne Daughtrey.
- Children's Bible drillers at South Louisville Church, Louisville, are, front row, Jenna Lovorn and Lauren Dalton; back row, Nicholas Davis, Madison Mills, Bailey Talbot, and Erik Davis. Youth drillers are, front row, Hanna Nowell and Christin Sanders; back row, Emily Davis, Robbie Faulk, Elizabeth Ragan, and Whitney Smith.
- 3. Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, Angel Wings Women's Ministry attended the Women of Faith Conference April 1–2 in Shreveport, La.
- 4. Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, Bible drill team is, front, Lauren Hamm and Morgan Green, children; Angelique McCrary, youth. Back row are leaders Debbie Hamm and Ruth O'Neal.
- First Church, Glendale, Bible drillers participated in the state drills. Finishing at the state level were Hunter Freeman and Marlee Cameron, who received a thirdyear participant trophy.
- 6. The Center for International Seamen and Truckers, Gulfport, is hosting an event, Keeping Our American Ports Great, on National Maritime Day at the Seamen and Truckers Center May 24, 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. A catered luncheon is planned; cost is \$10.
- 7. Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will host An Evening with Thomas Hamill A Testimony of Faith and Courage on Tuesday, May 17. The event begins with a book signing by Hamill and Escape From Iraq author Paul Brown at 6 pm. The program in the worship center will begin at 7 pm highlighted by Thomas Hamill's moving testimony.
- Robert Knupp, professor of organ at Mississippi College, will present a worship service of organ music at Trace Ridge, Ridgeland, May 29, 6 p.m.
- First, West Point, will celebrate their 150th anniversary June 4–5. Charles Dampeer, message, Saturday, 6 p.m.; David Hall, preaching Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Other events planned.

- 10. Cedar View, Olive Branch, will host a community singing May 21, 6 p.m. The Reeves Family, featured musicians.
- 11. Courtland Church, Courtland, will host Youthquake 2005 in downtown Courtland May 8–11, 6 p.m. John Swaney, Independence, speaking; Tom Edwards Band, Clinton, music.
- 12. Building dedication services for Grace United Church, Decatur, will be May 15 at 2 p.m.
- 13. First Church, Corinth, will celebrate its 150th anniversary May 15. Activities will begin with the 10:45 worship service and continue with "dinner on the grounds", followed with games and entertainment for all ages until 4 p.m. All activities are casual and participants are asked to bring their lawn chairs and /or picnic blankets. Former pastor P.A."Red" Michael, preaching.
- 14. On May 15 Royce Christmas will preach his final sermon as pastor of Greenacres Church, Bastrop, La. A reception will be held that afternoon from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in honor of Christmas and his wife, Betty, for 44 years of service in the ministry. Christmas pastored at Parkview, Greenville. For more information, call (318) 281-1303.
- 15. Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall, will host the Dixie Echoes, Pensacola, Fla., and Krystal Tanner, Charleston, in concert May 14, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 847-2555.
- Big Level Church, Wiggins, will host Kristian Booth in concert May 15, 6:30 p.m. For more information contact David Perry at (601) 529-9412.
- 17. Liberty Church, Liberty, is sponsoring the Ramblin' Road Trip VBS June 6–10, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon, for 1st–6th graders.
- 18. Jackson Association, Pascagoula, is sponsoring The MYX, a contemporary worship concept on Sundays at 8:30 p.m. June 5-July 31. Services include inspiring worship using music, art, video, and drama along with Bible study geared for Millenials, Generations Y and X. Services are in a different church each evening; for information, visit www.themyx.org.



2. Children's Bible Drillers, South Louisville Church, Louisville



2. Youth Bible Drillers, South Louisville Church, Louisville



3. Angel Wings Women's Ministry, Griffith Memorial Church



4. Bible Drill Team, Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch



5. Bible Drillers, First Church, Glendale

JUST FOR THE RECORD



19. LifeWay Study Group, First Church, Newton

- 19. Approximately 15 women from First Church, Newton, are involved in a new LifeWay study entitled The Frazzled Female. Shown are the class members.
- 20. Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, Bible drillers all advanced to the state drills. Shown are the children's Bible drillers and the youth Bible drillers. Youth member Chris Ferguson won first place in the scholarship drill and will attend Blue Mountain College.
- 21. First Church, Magnolia,
 Bible drillers participated in
 the state tournament. Shown,
 from left, are Barry Ward,
 pastor; Allan Lampton;
 Jolee Musselwhite, and Sean
 Rushing.
- 22. First Church, Tutwiler, presented the high school graduates with a new Bible during Graduate Recognition Sunday, Apr. 24. Shown front row, from left: John Phillip Gee, Britney Barnard, and Erin Morgan. Second row: Luke Fortner, Blake Smith, Guy

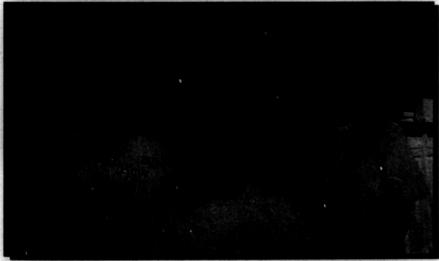
Logan, Joel Hays, and

Brandon Wright.

23. Mt. Zion Church, Columbus, recognizes their youth Bible drillers, all of whom advanced to the state level: Emily Sullivan, Ally Pfeiffer, Kimberly Hollis, Leigh Hutcheson, Ashley Silas, and Kacie Hawkins. Children drillers are Austin Oswalt, Skylar Pearson, Reagan Hern, Morgan Rose, Sarah Hern, and Amber Cheezum.



23. Children Bible Drillers, Mt. Zion Church, Columbus



23. Youth Bible Drillers, Mt. Zion Church, Columbus



20. Children Bible Drillers, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale



20. Youth Bible Drillers, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale



21. Bible Drillers, First Church, Magnolia



22. High School Graduates, First Church, Tutwiler

Revivals & Homecomings

Center Terrace Church, Canton: Revival, May 22-25; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music.

Looxahoma Church, Looxahooma: Dedication and Homecoming, May 22; 2:00 p.m.; dinner served at 5:00 p.m. Outdoor activities, bring lawn chairs. For more information, contact the church at (662) 562-8447 or Renae Stricklen at (662) 562-6030.

Wayside, Yalobusha: Homecoming, May 15; worship, 11 a.m.; potluck lunch; David Norris, speaking.

Dublin, Carson: Revival, May 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Messer, evangelist; Rick Holifield, music.

Causeyville, Meridian: Homecoming, May 15; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch; music, 2 p.m. Mike McIlwain, preaching and music; Paul Barkley, music.

New Harmony, Philadelphia: Homecoming, May 15, 11 a.m.: Vernell Daniels, preaching; Rodney Goldman, music; Dewey Moore, pastor.

Moss Hill, New Albany: Homecoming, May 15; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; preaching, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and singing; Carl Weeden, speaking; Keynotes, special music; Charlie Ransier, pastor.

Liberty, Jefferson Community, Carroll County: Homecoming, June 5; worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; mini-concert, 1:30 p.m. Paul Miller, preaching; Lavonne Swindle, music.

Calvary, Carroll County: Homecoming, May 29; mini-concert and worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the pavilion; singing, 1 p.m. Terry Corley, guest speaker; Jimmy Hood, music.



MS Positions

PART-TIME SECRETARY: Summerland Baptist Church in Taylorsville, Miss., is seeking a part-time secretary. Hours will be Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. To receive an application please contact Tim Lee at (601) 729-4402, e-mail timlee@megagate.com or Suzanne Bullock at (601) 498-8226, e-mail sbullock@trustmark.com. Applications should be returned by May 25, 2005.

FLAT TOP UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please send resume to 23464 Indian Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466.

SYLVARENA BAPTIST CHURCH in Wesson, Miss., is currently seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to 1119 Old Sylvarena Road, Wesson, MS 39191.

WANTED: PART-TIME CHILDREN/ YOUTH DIRECTOR at Trinity Baptist Church in Pearl, Miss. Call (601) 939-6622 for information.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

- 24. The International Children's Choir—Children of the World performed May 1 at First Church, Brandon. These 15 orphaned children are from five different countries.
- 25. Ingomar Church, Union County, celebrated Valentine's Day with 12 couples in their congregation who had each celebrated 50 plus years of marriage. The couples were recognized during the Feb. 13 worship service and honored with lunch afterwards. Shown are the honorees.
- 26. Liberty Church, Noxapater, celebrated the groundbreaking for their new family life center May 1. Front row: Maureen Perkins, John Wilkes, Grady Woods, John Carter, C. B. Myers, Steve Iones; back row: Betty Byrd, Dennis Duran, Sam Reed, Billy Carter, Arden Blount, Max Ingram, J. W. McBrayer, and Rob Thompson.

- 27. Lance Dotson and Kenny Vanderford were recently ordained as deacons at Puckett Church, Rankin County. Shown are Robert Love, Georgia Dotson, Dotson, Vanderford, Anita Vanderford, and Grant McElveen.
- 28. Weir Church, Weir, congratulates their Junior High State Bible Drillers. Shown, from left: Ellen Turnipseed, leader; Tiffany Dempsey, Jennifer McGee, Brittani Dempsey, and Brandi Collins. Tiffany Dempsey qualified for the state Junior High tournament where she placed in the top 12.
- 29. Chaplain Lt. Col. Grover C. Glenn, Camp Shelby, stands by a snow cone machine given to the Chaplain's Department by Calvary Chapel, Parchman. The snow cones will be given to troops returning from the field, offering witnessing opportunities.



25. Valentine's Day, Ingomar Church, Union County



26. Groundbreaking, Liberty Church, Noxapater



27. Deacon Ordination, Puckett Church, Rankin County



24. International Children's Choir, First Church, Brandon

CLASSIFIED ADS

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. INSURANCE for the self employed. Call Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations WEST, Mississippi born and reared (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705. Southern Baptist minister decides to Insurance, www.christurner-ins.com.

TION CONDOS, www.gulfshorescon- \$65/nite. Call for information at (251) will be prayerfully considered. special, 2 night weekend, \$160, 4 or pdiw@worldnet.att.net. 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524.

Parkview Baptist Church, pastor search at (888) 426-9734. Alexandria, LA 71301.

(662) 455-6743.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt.

Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

week nights \$250. Efficiency unit (2 CHURCHES SAVE 30-80% ON INK JET Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time adults 2 kids). Good thru 5/25, (205) CARTRIDGES AND TONERS. Free ship-minister of students/recreation. Degree ping delivered to your church address, required. Send resume to P.O. Box 1165, FULL-TIME PASTOR: Send resumes to http://lnk4Churches.com or call toll-free Collierville, TN 38027-1165.

committee, 2101~ MacArthur Drive, MINISTER OF CHILDREN desired for SHIP AND/OR YOUTH LEADER. Small Olive, AL 35117, attn: search committee. chairman, 2200 Mall Road, Estes Park MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970. SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN CO 80517. 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

AFTER HAVING SERVED IN THE MID-GATLINBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2 bath, return to home state to pastor. If inter-AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACA- full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, ested, call (660) 263-0946. All offers

dos.com. All size units available. Spring 666-2175, cell phone (251) 689-9982 MINISTRY STUDENT/RECREATION Covenant Baptist Church in Collierville

IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR WORbirth through 5th grade, including a day church, small mountain town, large NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, care program. Requirements include a challenges, eternal rewards. Must have INC., old Bibles rebound. Also, church four year degree, strong organization and strong desire and vision for growth in bulletins and hymnals. For more infor- ministry experience in both preschool worship and youth. After prayerful conmation call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at and children's ministry. Send resumes to sideration, send resumes to Estes Park FBC Mt. Olive, 3200 Mt. Olive Road, Mt. Baptist Church, Kirk Bartunek, MSC

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE, 3.9 cents OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl GAME ON! FAMILY PAINTBALL PARK. interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, Individuals, groups, youth groups, & service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) birthday parties. Sales and rentals, Fridays & Saturdays 8:30 am - 6:00 pm. HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free Weekdays/holidays by reservation, 205 church windows, reworking and repair, estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Lower Rockport Road, New Hebron, (601) 847-7337.



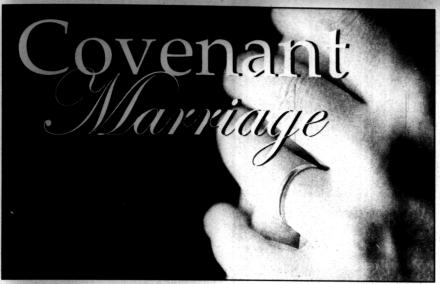
28. Bible Drillers, Weir Church, Choctaw Association



29. Chaplain Lt. Col. Grover C. Glenn, Camp Shelby

Practical Principles for Christian Living

A Monthly Publication of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention • Volume 5 • Issue 3





Yancey

Americans witnessed a national move-

By Lee Yancey

ment to legalize gay marriage, civil unions, and the overall homosexual agenda. Recently, Connecticut

Governor M. Jodi Rell, a Republican, signed into law a bill that recognized same-sex civil unions. Civil unions are basically marriage without the name. According to a Baptist Press article, Connecticut joins

Vermont as the only states to legalize civil unions. Massachusetts is still the only state with same-sex marriage, but the laws in Massachusetts and Vermont were court-ordered while the Connecticut bill was passed voluntarily. In response to the push for homosexual marriage, last November, 86% of Mississippi voters approved the Mississippi Marriage Amendment. Mississippi was one of eleven states from coast to coast who banned gay marriage.

Studies have shown that the divorce rate among Christians is the same as that of non-

Christians. With traditional marriage failing, we must take steps to strengthen it. Marriage has become much ado about a wedding and learn-as-you-go after that. In fact, most couples spend much more time planning the wedding event than they do thinking about how to live as husband and wife 'til death do they part. We all know that marriage takes work. Newlyweds are practically blindsided by financial issues, sexual expectations, and power struggles. Just this week, Jennifer Wilbanks, the runaway bride from Georgia, reminded us of the pressures leading up to the wedding event. With 600 invited guests, 14 bridesmaids and 14 groomsmen, the city of Duluth was anticipating a big social event. Instead, more than 100 officers and several hundred volunteers searched for the missing bride. Thankfully, she was not abducted as first alleged, but had run away to have time to think. She finally called 911 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At least she ran away before the marriage.

Many families suffer because husbands and wives do not stay together. Children in broken homes bear inner scars that they

will carry for the rest of their lives. Covenant marriage could help couples to have a better understanding of lifelong partnership. Covenants are nonnegotiable. The value of a covenant marriage relationship as opposed to a contractual marriage agreement lies in a person's understanding and acceptance of God's intent for marriage. A covenant is intended to be a lifelong commitment that has eternal significance.

Louisiana became the first state to offer a Covenant Marriage Law on August 15, 1997. Since that time, only 2% of couples chose to have a covenant marriage. Arkansas voted to allow covenant marriage in 2001 and only 600 out of more than 40,000 chose to have a covenant marriage since then. In Arizona, only 1% opted for covenant marriage. According to supporters, the problem is that none of the three states has done a good job of publicizing the covenant marriage option. On Valentine's Day, Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, a former Baptist preacher, and his wife, joined more than 1,000 couples in converting their traditional marriage into a covenant marriage. Under the

strict terms of covenant marriage, couples must undergo premarital counseling, sign an affidavit and promise to seek more counseling if troubles arise in the marriage. Divorce is allowed only in cases of "cruel or barbarous treatment," according to the Arkansas law, including adultery, physical or sexual abuse, a felony conviction, or abandonment.

In the Bible Belt South, the divorce rate is almost 50% higher than the national average. According to Governor Huckabee, "Covenant marriage is not a cure-all, and it does not solve all of the problems. It does, however, provide a safeguard for people and is an attempt to work problems out rather than run from them." Mississippi could certainly benefit from an optional covenant marriage law. For several years, the bill has been introduced in our legislature and failed to pass out of committee. Contact your representative and senator and ask them to support the Covenant Marriage Bill in 2006.

Dr. Lee Yancey is a consultant with the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at lyancey@christianaction.com.

LifeWay international discipleship tops 22,000 mark

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — More than 22,000 churches in 58 countries have been strengthened in a discipleship initiative by LifeWay International, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the effort, consultants have been deployed across the world to teach pastors how to strengthen their congregations using resources such "Experiencing God," MasterLife curriculum and Beth Moore Bible studies.

"[O]ne of our main goals has been to help churches be intentional about discipleship," said Luis Lopez, LifeWay's manager of international consulting and training. "We are training [pastors] to be able to develop a plan for discipleship in their churches so that believers can be devel-

oped into spiritual leaders."

Since 1998, the Nashvillebased consultants -- in conjunction with resident consultants in strategic countries and 279 volunteer consultants across the globe -- have conducted nearly 3,000 discipleship workshops. Though the workshops have included leaders from 58 nations, training has focused on several areas tagged as "key mar-Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Southeast Asia, Oceania and India.

The workshops utilize LifeWay materials that have been translated into more than 100 languages by LifeWay employees and licensed translators worldwide.

of multiplication based on what Jesus said: We are to commit to faithful men what has been entrusted to us," Lopez said. "So we train pastors and leaders in countries where they become multipliers by training others to do the same.

Southern Baptist associations and churches can join the process of international discipleship by becoming "teaching partners" with LifeWay, Lopez said. Teaching partners receive training and subse-quently travel internationally to conduct workshops.

Teaching partners churches or groups from the U.S. who travel to different countries and help us teach and train pastors ar leaders overseas," he said. "We're always interested in looking for people who have the vision to train and join us."

Lopez urged all believers to invest themselves in discipleship ministries because of the important role discipleship plays in growing the Kingdom of God.

"We're about Kingdom work," he said. "And one of the greatest contributions that we're making is that we're

We believe in the principle helping churches use resources. There is a lack of discipleship resources in many of these countries. So we're able to provide those resources."

 Discipleship training can be an arduous process, Lopez noted. But when leaders catch a vision for growing their congregations in spiritual maturity then it's all worth it."

Discipleship is a process that takes time and effort from churches," he said. "But in key areas we've seen some great testimonies of churches that have put into place a discipleship process.... That has been very encouraging.

In the future LifeWay hopes to expand its network of resident consultants across the world so that it can conduct a greater number of workshops and saturate churches with the Word of God.

We are definitely committed to expand our network of resident consultants so that we are able to impact in a more intentional way the training of local pastors and church leaders," Lopez said.

For further information about LifeWay international discipleship visit www.lifewayinternational.com.

Witnessing

Best First Time Entry North Miss. Christmas Festival Harrisburg Church, Tupelo

Most Creative Use of Media Light Your Christmas Broadmoor Church, Madison

Mississippi media personali-Walt Grayson, producer of the Look Around Mississippi video series and former radio and television personality was the keynote speaker at the May 6 evening awards banquet.

Referring to the inappropriate content of many secular entertainment media products today, Grayson said, "It is important that we (Christians) have a presence. We are not competing against other church services; we are competing against every-thing on cable. People need to know we're out there."

Grayson, an ordained South-Baptist minister and

graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, expressed concern for the constant repetition of the inappropriate content that is being drummed into the minds of American children and

(continued from page one)

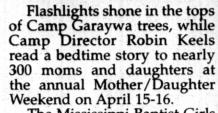
"There's a whole lot of stuff out there, that if you watch it enough you begin to think that's what life is about. We need to tell people what Jesus has done in our lives, and when people perceive that as real they will listen," he said.

The annual Witnessing Through Media Conference is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. For more information, contact Richardson at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3290 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651 ext. 290. E-mail: irichardson @mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbcb.org.

May 12, 2005

Mothers and daughters gather at Garaywa

By Micki Bennett, staff writer MBCB Missions Strategy Div.



The Mississippi Baptist Girls in Action (GA) campground, nestled in a quiet subdivision in Clinton, was still while little girls sitting in the laps of their mothers listened intently and the flames of the campfire kept them warm. "I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always, forever and ever my baby you'll be," is the song they heard.

The theme for the weekend

LETTERS TO

THE EDITOR

printed. No multi-copy or form

Each correspondent must include

an address and telephone number

for verification. In special instances,

name may be withheld at writer's

request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of

cooperating Mississippi Baptist

member. (Mississippi Baptists'

Letters must be limited to 250

words. All correspondence is

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor

do not necessarily reflect the

views of the Mississippi Baptist

No more than one letter from

any individual will be printed

during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the

editor a given issue has received

sufficient attention, correspondence

dealing with it will no longer be

published and a notice will be

printed to that effect.

space is limited.)

subject to editing.

Convention Board.

church where correspondent is a

letters will receive priority when

Unsigned letters will not be

letters will be used.

was Daughters of the King, based on Galatians 3:26. The weekend began on the afternoon of April 15 with energetic young girls canvassing the campground cabins and checking out the pool and ropes course while their mothers registered. Later that night and on April 16, mothers and daughters learned from missionaries, crafted bracelets, played fun games at recreation, read devotions together, sang silly songs, went to a bonfire worship service, and even gave an offering to be used in helping the tsunami relief effort through the International Mission Board.

"Mother/Daughter Weekend is a neat chance to get moms and daughters away from real life," Keels said. "I



KING'S DAUGHTERS — Participants in the GA Mother/Daughter Weekend on April 15-16 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton listen intently as Garaywa staffers perform a skit describing the theme of the weekend, Daughters of the King. The annual event is one of the most popular weekend activities hosted by the state Baptist campground. (BR special photo)

love watching them together."

Keels, who has supported missions for as long as she can remember, said that she uses this weekend to "challenge moms to keep kids involved in missions."

Jacinthia McDaniel of Homewood Church, Forest, caught the vision that Keels seeks to share. "I've always felt like I should be involved in missions. I feel like I can't be as involved as I'd like, but I can pray," she said. Her eight-year-old daughter Jaycey, shy and polite, liked the crafts and games of the weekend.

Because the programs at Camp Garaywa are so missions-oriented, missionaries are often brought in to tell their stories. Erica Harms and Lissa Halbert spoke about their experiences on the mission field. Harms, who spent the 2004 summer backpacking in the Philippines, shared with the girls about the culture and lifestyles, including the

typhoon that caused her to rebuild her camp three times. The girls, who along with

The girls, who along with their mothers experienced eating white rice Filipinostyle with their fingers, also learned how Harms and her partners had to wash clothes in the mountains and even worship like the natives.

Halbert, originally from Olive Branch, was also a speaker for the weekend. She focused on evangelism and taught the mothers and daughters about the armor of God and how it is used on the mission field.

Mitzi Williams and her daughter Bria enjoyed their special weekend together. A member of First Church Clinton, Mitzi Williams said she loves everything about Garaywa. "I tried to pick one thing," she said, "but I couldn't."

She said she enjoyed learning about the missionaries and making bracelets, and her seven-year-old daughter is ready to come for a whole week during the summer. Unfortunately, Bria will have to wait for the next two years until she is old enough.

Camp Garaywa is supported by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, the Mississippi Cooperative Program, and camp fees. For more information on Camp Garaywa, contact Alicia Dungan at 312 Camp Garaywa Road, Clinton, MS 39056. Telephone: (601) 924-7034. Email: garaywa@mbcb.org.

WHO'S NEXT?

Editor

I feel an urgency to reply to Heat, Not Light (letter to the editor, April 14 issue), concerning Judge George Greer's resignation from his church because of his ruling in the Terri Schiavo case. I think his pastor Willy Rice did what he should have done. The church stands for sanctity of life and cannot condone actions taken contrary to those beliefs by anyone claiming to be a member.

Who considered the suffering of Terri and her family, the Schindlers? She was not brain dead, but brain damaged. Why, after all the year she existed in this condition, should she have to be cruelly starved and dehydrated to death at the whim of two or three humans, and her poor family forced to stand by and watch? What could be worse?

It is bad when in America this can be done, and the law of the land enforces it and stops anyone from feeding her or giving her water. Who will be next? It is already legal to murder unborn babies. How long will it be before it is legal to "get rid" of older people who are no longer useful to society and are drawing "endangered" Social Security checks — or the unfortunate ones who are deformed physically or mentally retarded?

When they took God's work into their own hands, they may have opened up a whole new can of worms.

Rebecca Robuck Ashland

CORRECTION

Editor:

On page three of the May 5 issue of The Baptist Record, there is a error in the headline for the article entitled, Baptist Marine chaplain soldiers on in Iraq. There is no such designator as a "Marine chaplain." All chaplains serving with U.S. Marine units are Navy chaplains on loan to the U.S. Marine Corps.

For informational purposes, U.S. Navy chaplains have the privilege of serving not only the Navy and Marine Corps but also the U.S. Coast Guard and at the Merchant Academy. Having the article entitled as printed leads the uniformed lay person to believe there are chaplains who are commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps. During my 26 years of active duty with Navy Chaplain Corps, it was my great privilege to have served with Marine units for over eight years.

Capt. Harold W. Garrett Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy (Retired)

BSU SEEKS CADETS

Editor:

The Baptist Student Union (BSU) at the U.S. Air Force Academy would like to contact the men and women reporting to the Academy June 29-30. For those arriving June 29, we will meet them at the airport, provide free lodging, meals, transportation, and take them to the Academy at the appointed time on June 30. For those arriving June 30, the Academy buses will meet them but we would like to make contact.

This is an opportunity to meet smiling faces and make new Christian friends before beginning training. If pastors, parents, relatives, friends, or new cadets will contact us with

name, address, telephone, and email address, we will contact them to secure flight arrival times and provide further information. Please contact:

• Mary Kathryn Kelly, 820 Timbertop Court, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. Telephone: (719) 484-0347 or (719) 660-1676. E-mail: wwmkk@earthlink.net; or

• Bill Gandy, 550 West Woodmen Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. Telephone: (719) 635-0026. E-mail: bgandy@ppba.org.

Also, for anyone attending the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, or the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, similar ministries are provided.

At the U.S. Military Academy, contact Dwain Gregory, 83-80 118th St, #2P, Kew Gardens, NY 11415. Telephone: (719) 963-4477. Email: Dwain.Gregory@ usma. edu or LeeDGreg@aol.com.

edu or LeeDGreg@aol.com. At the Naval Academy, contact Kirk Ritchey, 201 Hanover Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. Telephone: (443) 994-1938. E-mail: ritchey@usna.edu.

At the Coast Guard Academy, contact Randy Barnes, 99 Maple Ave, Uncasville, CT 06382. Telephone: (860) 848-6628. Email: nlcministry@sbcglobal.net.

Mary K. Kelly, Assoc. Dir.

Baptist Collegiate Ministries
U.S. Air Force Academy
Colorado Springs, Co.



FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Avoid Sin's Consequences Genesis 19:12-13, 15-17, 23-29

By Rick Henson

Lot's life ended in tragedy. Though he had been a pillar of the community, his wife ended up a pillar of salt. He fled with only two daughters while all that he loved was destroyed. Lot's story in Genesis 19 is a tale of seduction and compromise, of lost principles and lost life, of a forgotten heritage and a forsaken man. Two days before, Lot sat at the city gate, engaging in business, talking with friends, and discussing politics. Two men came into the city. Lot recognized them as messengers from God.

Lot fell at their feet and asked them to eat with him and then to hurry on their way. Lot knew that godliness had nothing to do with this town, and this town had nothing to do with godliness. Compare Lot's

reaction with that of his uncle Abraham's when three godly visitors came to see him in Genesis 18. Abraham

offered a meal and lodging, and emphatically asked them, "Do not pass me by!" Lot, however, was anxious for the messengers of God to leave. His treatment of God's messengers is a clue of what was wrong with Lot's life. Lot lived a life of compromise.

Lot knew about the God of Abraham, but not enough to affect his life. Many today are a lot like Lot. They know something about the God of their parents or neighbors, or a coworker, but not enough to change their lifestyles. Lot realized these angels were unaccustomed to the sin of Sodom, so he politely told them, "You guys are welcomed here for awhile, then you need



Hensor

to be on your way."
Why was it acceptable for Lot to be there, but not the messengers of God? Lot had compromised his principles with horrible results.

After the messengers ate with Lot and his family, they told Lot about God's plan to destroy the vile and

wicked cities the next day, and urged them to warn anyone they would. Lot went to his future sons-in-law and told them about the Lord's plans, but they thought he was joking. They had a good laugh. "What's the punch line, Lot?" Sadly, nothing in Lot's life prepared them to believe him when he spoke of the Lord. Lot learned a harsh lesson — a silent life is an ungodly life. One cannot serve God and be silent about God's grace. Lot had no credibility when he spoke of God.

We learn from Genesis 13:1-7 that Lot owned many slaves. Yet, none of them would leave the haven of homosexuality. Lot had behaved in that town

as though everything was fine, but everything was not fine. Why should we behave today as though everything is fine when people around us are facing certain destruction? If you went to work and spoke about the Lord, would people laugh at you? Would they ask, "What's the punch line?" What in your life and witness will prepare your neighbors, relatives, fellow students, or coworkers to hear about Jesus Christ? Or are you compromising as did Lot?

Though Lot had a family of sons, daughters, and had many servants, only two daughters and his wife left with him. His sons had deserted him. Obviously, nothing in Lot's home had prepared his sons for a message from God. The next morning the angels urged Lot to leave. Lot hesitated, so the angels physically drug him and his family out of the city. Why did he hesitate? If you knew that a city would be destroyed, would you hesitate to leave? You would if you had compromised every principle you had, if you loved business as much as Lot, and if you had no spiritual depth.

Why did Lot lose everything? What was his fatal flaw that condemned him to such an existence? The answer lies in Genesis 13:1-7. Many years earlier, God blessed both Lot and Abraham. Their herds grew. Their servants increased in number. Eventually they could no longer peacefully coexist. Abraham called Lot and gave him the choice of directions. Lot looked at the green Jordan valley to the East, and chose that direction. Abraham knew he was blessed of the Lord wherever he was, so he went west. Lot chose with his pocketbook. He was greedy. He took his family into a wicked city of sin so he could make a buck. He sat at the city gate while his family went to hell. His business thrived while his soul shriveled. What price compromise?

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Dodge Disaster Jeremiah 44: 2-10, 18, 26, 28

By Billie Buckley

In the book of Jeremiah some would say the two main characters were Doom and Gloom riding side by side. Against this pessimistic backdrop of God's judgment on Judah, there was always the willingness of God to spare and bless the nation if only the people would repent.

Oswald Chambers says

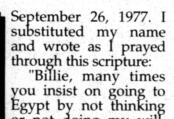
Oswald Chambers says about this truth, "The pronouncement of coming doom is a combining of judgment and deliverance. When God's limit is reached He destroys the unsaveable and liberates the saveable, separating good and evil, right and wrong."

We cannot plow into Chapter 44 without some background information. Back in Chapter 39 Jerusalem had fallen. The Babylonian army poured into the city, burned it to the ground,

destroyed the temple, and took the king to Babylon. At that time Jeremiah was freed from his prison house.

Looking into Chapter 40 we see God tempered his severity of judgment by allowing a remnant to prosper. "Those who became God-investors would soon own the store." (The Message) That was one sound investment. Still is.

We are introduced to fear that catches up with us in Chapter 42. In verse 15 God says, "If you insist on going to Egypt, you will die there." Allow me to flesh out this verse by sharing a prayer conversation I wrote on



you insist on going to Egypt by not thinking or not doing my will. Always remember, you might believe you will be free from harm out from under my guid-

ance. You never will. It's only as you function here in this land (my plan and principles laid down for your life) that you will be free."

My response was, "Father, take away the desire for me to go to Egypt, knowing for sure you will not go with me. Thank you for guiding me in your will and your way and your land."

Now we are ready to dig deep into the disaster of Chapter 44: the disasters of God's judgment, damaged testimonies, unrepentance, and delusions. Know this: the disaster came upon them for not worshiping the Lord only. How do we know

what we worship? That's easy. It's what we value the most. Could be our stuff or could be our Savior. The people of Judah chose their stuff and faced disaster because of this decision.

With the guidance of The Experiencing God Study Bible, let's pose some questions for the remainder of this study.

In verses 2-8 we focus on departing from God because of sin. Sin provokes God to pour out His anger in verse 3. Why? The answer is in verse 5. The sin of disobedience begins with having other substitutes for God. Now the question. Through these verses what can we learn from God's discipline today when we choose to substitute Him

In verses 9-10 the focus is on unrepentance. This is a result of not humbling ourselves before God, not showing reference for His values and not following His plan. Now the question. What positive behaviors does God look for after He has disciplined us?

In verses 18, 26, 28 we target delusional disaster. This type of disaster causes us to take the credit due God and give it to a substitute. Here we are shown several truths. God wants us to see His judgment, then to know He keeps His word by carrying out His decisions when warnings are neglected. Now the question. Whose words can you trust today? Why?

Psalm 37: 27-28 from the Message reads, "Turn your back on evil. Work for good and don't quit. God loves this kind of thing." I don't know about you, but the man Jeremiah and his message come to my mind. Surely, God must have loved Jeremiah!

Now the last question. What about you and me? Can this be said of us? If not, we need to heed God's lesson for today and dodge disaster.

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an email form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

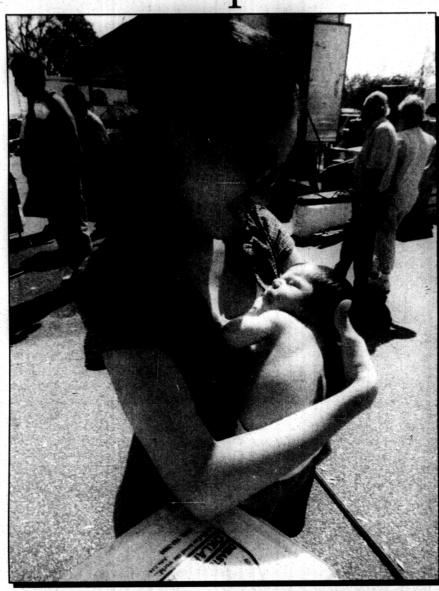
All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No fandscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Florida Baptists ask continued hurricane assistance



HELP STILL NEEDED — The immediate needs have been met — such as a hot meal for Alicia Rosas, holding her six-day-old baby, after Hurricane Ivan — but home repairs continue to be needed throughout Florida and elsewhere on the Gulf Coast after by Ivan and Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Jeanne. (BP photo courtesy of Ken Touchton/Florida Baptist Convention)

Coker Creek Village Adventure & Retreat Center

A Christian facility for groups size 8 to 400 Activities include:

Rafting the Ocoee • trail rides • climbing tower & mountain biking

A relaxed mountain retreat with:

Great meals • meeting rooms • bunkhouse lodging • activity staff • 300 acres & streams

Special events include:

 Last Fling of Summer • the colors of Autumn • Harvest celebration & Winterfest

Weekend specials: arrive Friday, leave Sunday Arrive Saturday noon, leave Sunday afternoon

12528 Hwy 68, PO Box 96, Coker Creek, TN 37314 Phone: 423-261-2310 • website: www.cokercreekvillage.com For Reservations Call: 1-800-448-9580

Charles Smith Ministries



Charles Smith Ministries is a Global evangelistic organization dedicated to the simple proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, through the avenues of church revivals, Bible conferences and evangelistic events.

Charles Smith Ministries • 2466 Oglesby Road, Sturgis, MS 39769 home 662-465-8848 or cell 662-341-1983

Charlesgotell@wmconnect.com

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)

— Hurricane Charley's forceful winds uprooted more than
the banyan tree in the Conger
family's yard last August. It
overturned their lives as they
lost their jobs, home and all of

their personal belongings.

"I have three boys," Kristen
Conger said. "You try to protect your children, then they
lose everything and you tell
them that it's going to be OK,
but I didn't even think it was
going to be OK," she said.

Money the family intended to use for repairs covered hotel costs as they sought shelter from the subsequent hurricanes and storms that ravaged Florida. With only a tarp-covered roof and extensive mold damage, the Congers returned home to try and piece together their house and lives.

Weeks after living in the damaged home, Florida Baptist disaster relief volunteers helped rebuild the Congers' roof with wood the family purchased and materials donated by the Tampa Bay Association.

"If no one had stepped in to help us, my house would still have no roof and would have been condemned," Conger said.

Nearly eight months after last year's storms many Floridians have had no one step in to offer help. People and families are without the resources to finish needed repairs to uninsured or underinsured homes, said Hal Burke, the Florida Baptist Convention's director of long-term disaster recovery operations.

"I can safely say there are literally thousands who are still living in homes that are in disrepair and in many cases not livable," Burke said. "Some live in homes with roof damage and mold because they have no other way to turn."

After Hurricane Charley struck Punta Gorda, a Rebuild Coordination Center was established in Sarasota to help iden-

tify individuals with structural needs. However, Hurricane Frances plowed through the state, soon followed by Hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne before any recovery work could begin.

The multiple storms forced volunteers to concentrate on meeting victims' immediate needs by providing warm meals, dry food supplies, water and clothing. After relief efforts stopped in the hardest-hit areas, recovery operations began slowly with limited resources and materials.

Baptist associations across Florida coordinated volunteers and established recovery/rebuild projects within their regions while the Rebuild Coordination Center in Sarasota concentrated on the southwest part of the state.

Approximately \$118,000 was invested in the site to put a strategy in place, hire workers and secure initial materials needed to begin registering and assigning volunteers for the building/recovery projects.

Between the months of September and February, at least 643 volunteers assisted more than 830 families with roofing, dry wall and other temporary and permanent construction.

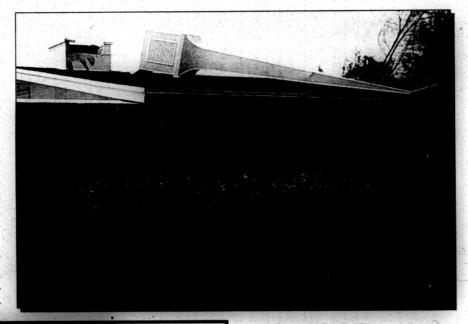
The recovery effort has now hit a new stage. "Right now we are trying to get people back on their feet in a long-term way by helping rebuild their lives and homes," Burke said.

The mission and purpose is to help rebuild lives and homes both physically and

The mission and purpose is to help rebuild lives and homes both physically and spiritually, Burke said. "These projects give us the opportunity to share not only how they can rebuild a home but rebuild their lives through a personal relationship with lesus Christ."

As the next hurricane season approaches, an increasing number of Florida Baptists have shown interest in disaster relief training. Fritz Wilson, director of the convention's Florida Baptist men's department, said there has been high attendance at each of the disaster relief trainings held to date. A total of eight meetings were scheduled across the state to train volunteers.

Projects are available for individuals or volunteer groups of any size and for any length of time. For more information on how to volunteer, contact the Rebuild Coordination Center directly at (941) 360-0321.



MID-AMERICA BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Enroll Now for

Doctor of Ministry Degree in Pastoral Ministries

Fall Colloquim: September 5-9, 2005 Winter Colloquim: January 16-20, 2006

With careful planning, a pastor can complete the program without missing any Sundays from his church. You may only need to be away from home four nights four times a year.

Allow 60 days for application processing.

For more information contact our Admissions Office at 800.968.4508 or visit us online at www.mabts.edu.





BAPTISTS